



Greetings!

It is September 1 and it's good to be here.

We arrived late last Thursday night and were greeted with signs and notes of welcome all around the house from Clara and Ruben. Our belongings have arrived and we are for the most part settled. All of you who have moved know the problem of "I wonder which box that was in..." We would be pleased to have you visit or call.

The first day in the office was filled with a desk piled high with mail, calls, visitors, and with the very great help of Joy Miller, our Moderator, and Fran Heim and Jody Wolfe, our secretaries, of getting oriented.

To follow a man like Ruben Huenemann has both its problems as well as advantages. You have become accustomed to high quality of leadership and your expectations are high. That's good. I can only promise that I will do my best.

The advantages are that things are in good order. I detect good feelings and high morale among our people. I have a sense that our people are looking to the future with strength and expectation, and, that's good. Our office is in good order. Our staff, both professional and secretarial, seem to have things well in hand.

Let me share a couple of initial reflections and feelings after one day in the office.

1. Having gone through most of the mail, I am impressed with the amount and the variety and kinds of correspondence that come to the Conference Minister.
2. The immediacy of so many needs and claims are such that I wonder how I can respond to them all.
3. I am going to need your help if we are going to get the job done that needs to be done. I want to know who you are, where you are and your perceptions and ideas about what and how we need to be doing. And perhaps the Holy Spirit will use our combined brains and talents and commitments for some mighty works.
4. One of the realities that has sustained me through the highs and lows and plains of life is the reality of God's grace. It keeps one humble, and keeps one courageous and keeps one plugging. As I contemplate the responsibilities of this office and the challenges for ministry in Christ's name which are before us, I know I shall need again and again to rely on the full measure of grace.

Pray for me as I pray for you, that we shall be faithful to the ministry to which we are called.

--- Teruo Kawata

AMA 17/76 RECEIPTSOREGON & WN.Thru July 31, 1976

Albany	\$ ---
Ashland	212
Astoria	---
Beaver Creek	---
Beaverton	2,861
Butteville	---
Cascade Locks	---
Clackamas	---
Condon	180
Corvallis	150
Elliott Prairie	10
Enterprise	---
Eugene	204
Forest Grove	1,994
Gaston	54
Gresham, Zion	---
Hillsboro	---
Hood River	---
Hubbard	216
Ione	---
Jennings Lodge	---
Klamath Falls	---
Lake Oswego	---
Lincoln City	25
Medford	670
Milton-Freewater, Ingle Chapel	10
Milton-Freewater, United	---
Milwaukie	182
Portland:	345
Cedar Hills	---
Ebenezer	2,257
First	474
Highland	365
Hillsdale	680
Parkrose	25
Rivercrest	493
St. Andrew's	464
Second	87
Trinity	181
Waverly Heights	769
Salem, First	45
Salem, Knight Memorial	---
Scappoose	---
Smyrna	---
The Dalles	257
Tillamook, St. John's	135
Wilsonville, Meridian	250
White Salmon, Wn.	545
	<hr/>
	\$ 14,142

IDAHO

	thru July 31, 1976
American Falls	\$ 86
Boise, First	25
Boise, Wright	401
Challis	---
Grand View	---
Idaho Falls	62
McCall	---
Mountain Home	155
Nampa	---
New Plymouth	---
Payette	---
Pocatello	55
Rockland	---
Weiser	---
	<hr/>
	\$ 784

CHURCHES RESPOND TO IDAHO DISASTER

The church at Idaho Falls, Rev. Clyde Martin, pastor, is continuing the ministry to flood victims. The members and victims are grateful for the financial support which has been provided by many churches. UCC support reported to the Conference Office totals \$4,051.35. Additional amounts have been contributed which have not been reported. Many voices say, "Thank you!"

MOLTMANN COMING TO OREGON

An opportunity to become acquainted with Dr. Juergen Moltmann, one of the world's recognized theologians, will be available to West Coast residents this Fall. He will be at Lewis and Clark College in Portland on September 23 and at the Community College in Roseburg on September 23. His Theology of Hope", which has been presented in numerous books and articles, has had an enormous impact on the thinking of the church throughout the world. He is currently Professor of Systematic Theology at Tuebingen University in Germany.

June 15, 1851, was the founding date of First Church, Portland. A gala celebration in June marked the 125th Anniversary of that significant occasion.

The Hillsboro Church is busy with the construction of a residence, now nearing completion, which will be made available for purchase. The skills of many members are utilized in the unique project.

SUMMER CAMPS SHOW INCREASE

Participation is up and "overhead" is down, showing a positive direction in 1976 Outdoor Ministries. Camp Adams events registered 286 campers this year, up 36 (12.5%) over 1975. Off-site events went from 26 in '75 to 40 in '76 (up 35%). Several new events were well received. Staff volunteers to run these events were reduced 20%. The Camping Task Force will evaluate the total program and welcome comments. Please write the Conference Office in care of Charles Hinkle.



The Neighbors in Need all-church offering, which will be received in most congregations of the United Church of Christ on October 3rd, will include for the first time this year the American Indian Sunday offering. This latter offering was received separately in former years.

The proceeds from the NIN offering will be divided this year as follows:

- \$ 150,000 to the Council for American Indian Ministry for its varied ministries to Native Americans.
- \$ 130,000 to the Commission for Racial Justice for a new project of consumer-protection.
- \$ 120,000 to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for a new project benefiting Puerto Ricans.

Further designations as the offering exceeds these amounts.

In addition to observing Neighbors in Need Sunday on the first Sunday of October, it is suggested that the next-to-last Sunday of September be observed this year and in the future as American Indian Sunday, a time of special emphasis on the work of the UCC Council for American Indian Ministry.

"Planning for the Future" was the theme of an estate planning seminar at Wright Community Church, Boise, this summer. The Conference Financial Support Department encourages such efforts in local churches and makes material available.

GLEANINGS FROM 1976 UCC YEARBOOK

Church statistics can appear dull, but like opinion polls, they are compiled from actions and reactions of people. Properly understood they can yield useful comparisons, and offer helpful stimulation.

The 1976 UCC Yearbook is a valuable source of information, even though most of the pages are covered with statistics and tabulations. Each church receives a free copy. Additional copies are available at \$5.00 each.

It is no secret that Central Pacific Conference ranks near the top in number of square miles among the 39 UCC Conference, and near the bottom in size of membership. It is 35th in the number of churches, 33rd in membership, 32nd in church school enrollment, 26th in average size of local church. (205 member average in Central Pacific Conference, 278 national UCC average.)

Participation figures are more impressive than tabulation of size. CPC members gave an average of \$150.65 for total church purposes in 1975, compared to a \$123.83 national average. Total mission giving was \$20.35, compared to a national average of \$17.42. The Conference ranks 8th in giving. The Washington-North Idaho Conference, our neighbor to the north, ranks first in mission giving, with an average per capita of \$26.16, and second in total giving at \$170.70.

The Conference ranked first in percentage of increase to National Basic Support (14.8%) in 1975 and third in increase of Conference support (14.3%).

For the second year in a row the giving for national support of our Christian World Mission has increased to a total of just over \$9 million.

CONFERENCES ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP

Two UCC Conferences besides Central Pacific will be welcoming new Conference Ministers. The Rev. John M. Rogers from Southern California will become the new Michigan Conference Minister. He succeeds Duane N. Vore, who has been elected Executive Director of the Michigan Council of Churches. Rev. Edward H. Hastings of Orinda, California, assumes the Conference Minister's office in Southwest Conference, where he follows the Rev. Henry A. Culbertson.

The Local Scene

Welcome to these new leaders who are beginning their ministries in Central Pacific Conference:

Rev. Fred Strasburg from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Medford, Senior Pastor.

Rev. Hassel Helsabeck from Elkton, Virginia, to Corvallis, Associate Pastor.

Rev. Abner Frost from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Nampa, Idaho, Pastor.

Rev. Richard Christensen from Wray, Colorado, to Klamath Falls (yoked with Presbyterians).

Mr. Ron Nuss from Pacific School of Religion to Hood River, Student Intern.

Office staff persons fill an important place in the life of many congregations. Three churches recently honored such faithful workers now retiring after many years of service: Lydia Schleich, First, Portland; Janet Speed, Cedar Hills; Hulda Atwood, Corvallis.

Summer interim pastor at First Church, Boise, is Dr. Miles Shishido of Pacific University. The study leave of Rev. Ted Edquist, Pastor of First Church, was curtailed by an unfortunate accident to Ted's father late in May.

First Church, Salem, has formed an enthusiastic committee to help others know about and appreciate the church. The congregation has set a goal of 100 new members in 1976. A number of other churches of the Conference have established committees on Evangelism and/or Membership Development and Recruitment. The priority "Strengthening the Local Church" begins in the openness, creativity and resourcefulness of each congregation.

Milwaukie, UCC rejoices in the arrival of the Ly family from Cambodia. The sponsorship of the family of seven has involved the entire congregation. The new parsonage on the church property will soon be finished and occupied by the Tomlin family. The Milwaukie Adventist congregation is using the sanctuary on Saturdays until their own church is completed next Spring.

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Remember

Sept. 24-25 - FALL COUNCIL
MEETING at Condon.

Oct. 8-9 - WORKSHOP ON
WORSHIP, Vancouver, Wn.

Oct. 22-23 - EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING.

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NEWS



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